

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for database systems to access data from other database systems, the
2 method comprising the steps of:
3 a first database system directly storing first data in first data blocks having a first data
4 block size;
5 said first database system directly accessing a copy of second data blocks in which a
6 second database system directly stored second data; and
7 said second data blocks having at least one data block with a second data block size
8 different than said first data block size.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further includes the step of
2 integrating said copy of said second data blocks within said first
3 database system as a tablespace that includes said copy of said second
4 data blocks

1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of accessing a copy of second
2 data blocks includes storing user data in said copy of said second data
3 blocks.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further includes the step of detaching
2 one or more tablespaces from said second database system, wherein said one or more
3 tablespaces include said second data blocks.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein each data block of said copy of said second data
2 blocks has said second data block size.

1 6. The method of Claim 1, further including the step of generating metadata that
2 specifies a plurality of block sizes for data blocks directly accessible to said first
3 database system.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein:
2 said metadata defines tablespaces and specifies for each tablespace of said
3 tablespaces a particular data block size for all data blocks in said tablespace;
4 and
5 the method further includes the step of integrating said copy of said second data
6 blocks within said first database system as at least one tablespace that includes
7 said copy of said second data blocks, and
8 wherein the step of integrating includes modifying said metadata to reflect said
9 second data block size for said at least one tablespace.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said first database system is a data warehouse and
2 said second database system is a source database system for said data warehouse.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, further including the step of integrating said copy of said
2 second data blocks within said data warehouse as a tablespace that includes said copy
3 of said second data blocks.

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1 10. The method of Claim 1,
 2 wherein first data files contain said first data blocks and second data files contain said
 3 second data blocks; and
 4 wherein the method further includes the step of generating a mapping:
 5 between said first data files and said first data block size, and
 6 between said second data files and said second data block size.

1 11. The method of Claim 1,
 2 wherein a first tablespace contains said first data blocks and a second tablespace
 3 contains said second data blocks; and
 4 wherein the method further includes the step of generating a mapping:
 5 between said first tablespace and said first data block size, and
 6 between said second tablespace and said second data block size.

1 12. The method of Claim 1,
 2 wherein said first database system includes a buffer cache in which said first database
 3 system stores data blocks of multiple sizes; and
 4 wherein said method further includes the step of storing said first data blocks and said
 5 second data blocks in said buffer cache.

1 13. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
 2 database systems to access data from other database systems, wherein execution of
 3 the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or
 4 more processors to perform the steps of:

5 a first database system directly storing first data in first data blocks having a first data
6 block size;
7 said first database system directly accessing a copy of second data blocks in which a
8 second database system directly stored second data; and
9 said second data blocks having at least one data block with a second data block size
10 different than said first data block size.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the computer-
2 readable medium further includes instructions for performing the step of
3 integrating said copy of said second data blocks within said first
4 database system as a tablespace that includes said copy of said second
5 data blocks.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the step of
2 accessing a copy of second data blocks includes storing user data in said
3 copy of said second data blocks.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein the computer-readable medium
2 further includes instructions for performing the step of detaching one or more
3 tablespaces from said second database system, wherein said one or more tablespaces
4 include said second data blocks.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein each data block of said copy of
2 said second data blocks has said second data block size.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, further including instructions for
2 performing the step of generating metadata that specifies a plurality of block sizes for
3 data blocks directly accessible to said first database system.

1 19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein:
2 said metadata defines tablespaces and specifies for each tablespace of said
3 tablespaces a particular data block size for all data blocks in said tablespace;
4 and
5 the computer-readable medium further includes instructions for performing the step
6 of integrating said copy of said second data blocks within said first database
7 system as at least one tablespace that includes said copy of said second data
8 blocks, and
9 wherein the step of integrating includes modifying said metadata to reflect said
10 second data block size for said at least one tablespace.

1 20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein said first database system is a
2 data warehouse and said second database system is a source database system for said
3 data warehouse.

1 21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 20, further including instructions for
2 performing the step of integrating said copy of said second data blocks within said
3 data warehouse as a tablespace that includes said copy of said second data blocks.

1 22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13,

2 wherein first data files contain said first data blocks and second data files contain said
 3 second data blocks; and
 4 wherein the computer-readable medium further includes instructions for performing
 5 the step of generating a mapping:
 6 between said first data files and said first data block size, and
 7 between said second data files and said second data block size.

1 23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13,
 2 wherein a first tablespace contains said first data blocks and a second tablespace
 3 contains said second data blocks; and
 4 wherein the computer-readable medium further includes instructions for performing
 5 the step of generating a mapping:
 6 between said first tablespace and said first data block size, and
 7 between said second tablespace and said second data block size.

1 24. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13,
 2 wherein said first database system includes a buffer cache in which said first database
 3 system stores data blocks of multiple sizes; and
 4 wherein said computer-readable medium further includes the step of storing said first
 5 data blocks and said second data blocks in said buffer cache.